

Statement of Jonathan Sferazo, disabled Union Iron Worker
To the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization, and Procurement
Hearing on 9/11 Health Effects: Federal monitoring and Treatment of Residents and
Responders
Washington, DC
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Hello everyone, I am honored to have been asked to give testimony today to the experiences I have had with the September 11th, 2001 tragedy.

My name is Jonathan Sferazo, I am a disabled Union Iron Worker from local 361, Brooklyn, New York. We have created the Metropolitan Area's Skyline. I responded to the disaster on the morning of 9-12-01. The Brooklyn Battery Tunnel was our avenue of approach. We opened up West Street, with the removal of Collapsed Cars and Trucks to the South Tower. I am typical of other's who stayed approx 29-32 days at the site, and my medical and psychological conditions are Reactive Airway Disease, Restrictive Airway Disease, Sinusitis, Continual Lung Infections, P.T.S.D., Anxiety, Depression, Sleep-apnea, and Gastro-esophageal Reflux Disease...none of this you would have expected from someone who ran a 5 minute and 30 second time in the mile when I was in school. I never had a Pulmonological problem prior 9-11 or I would have never been certified by the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation for Wild-Land Search and Rescue. I went to Ground Zero because I wanted to help find and save Human life.

If I am to be the voice for the responder, then know that I am outraged by the lack of responsibility and loss of obligation this Administration has taken towards us. We are clearly being shown that we are expendable. George Bush came to the Trade Center site and told us "We Will Never Forget".....Well, we feel he forgot.

We want to know if those of us who are so severely afflicted have to loose all we have worked for before we are eligible for Social Services or will we ever be given what we were promised?

We have heard too many times, "Why weren't you wearing a mask?" Now hear the answer loud and clear, "Because we were given paper masks that clogged-up very easily and that was if you could get one, and we believed in our mayor [at that time], members of the C.D.C, members of the E.P.A. and Christy Todd Whitman who represented government telling us the air quality was ACCEPTABLE. Also I ask you to put yourself in our place; fighter jets flying overhead periodically with their sonic boom, helicopters hovering atop the skyscrapers, emergency whistles going-off every time an engineer saw a building shift. Then thousands of responders would run from the Pile toward you, rescue and emergency vehicles making use of their sirens so others could hear over the loud equipment noises, military and police personnel all around you, smoke as thick as pea soup...and then you find a body part. Do you really think you are concentrating on

your health? Especially when your government has given the message all is acceptable and O.K.?

I am here today because I care and have been through the system in trying to get my much needed health care and benefits. Marvin Bethea and I co-founded the Unsung Heroes Helping Heroes along with several others in 2005 because we knew the donations were going to run-out and we saw our government doing very little.